

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DUBLIN 00912 131614Z

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, EI

SUBJ: COSGRAVE SETS UP NEW ALL-PARTY COMMITTEE FOR
CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW

REF: DUBLIN 551 AND 791

1. SPEAKING IN DAIL JULY 12, PM COSGRAVE ANNOUNCED RE-
ESTABLISHMENT OF DAIL COMMITTEE DRAWN FROM ALL THREE
MAJOR PARTIES. MANDATE IS WORTH QUOTING: "WITH A VIEW
TO CONTRIBUTING TO A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE NI
SITUATION, IT HAS BEEN AGREED TO SET UP AN INTER-PARTY
COMMITTEE TO ESTABLISH THE COMMON GROUND BETWEEN THE
PARTIES REPRESENTED ON THE COMMITTEE ON THE CONSTITUTIONAL,
LEGAL, ECONOMIC, CULTURAL, SOCIAL AND OTHER RELEVANT
STEPS REQUIRED TO BRING ABOUT LASTING RECONCILIATION OF
ALL THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND SO THAT CONDITIONS MAY BE
CREATED CONDUCIVE TO A UNITED IRELAND; AND, IF THOUGHT
APPROPRIATE, TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS."

2. THIS CLOSE TO MANDATE GIVEN TO EARLIER DAIL
COMMITTEE UNDER LYNCH GOVT. EMPHASISS, HOWEVER, HAS BEEN
SHIFTED AWAY FROM IRISH UNITY TOWARD "PEACEFUL SETTLE-
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PAGE 02 DUBLIN 00912 131614Z

MENT" AND "LASTING RECONCILIATION." THIS MINOR CHANGE
IS APPARENTLY ACCEPTABLE TO FIANNA FAIL AS WELL AS GOVT.

EX-PM LYNCH EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS COOPERATE IN
RECONSTITUTED COMMITTEE.

3. ON GOVT SIDE, MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE ARE VERY HIGH-
POWERED FOR GINE GAEI, THEY ARE FONMIN FITZGERALD,
ATTORNEY GENERAL COSTELLO AND DEPUTY PADDY HARTE. FOR
LABOR, MEMBERS ARE MINISTER FOR POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS
CONOR CRUISE-O'BRIEN AND DEPUTY BARRY DESMOND. FIANNA
FAIL ALSO HAS FIVE MEMBERS, WHO ARE LESS IMPRESSIVE
THAN GOI REPRESENTATIVES BUT STRONGER THAN PREVIOUS
FIANNA FAIL COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES. THEY ARE: SAHDOW
LABOR MINISTER JOE BRENNAN, SHADOW FONMIN MICHAEL
O'KENNEDY, AND DEPUTIES VIVION DE VALERA, FRANK CARTER,
AND PADDY SMITH.

4. COMMENT: AS WE REPORTED IN REFTELS, GOI HOPES USE
ALL-PARTY COMMITTEE TO PRODUCE ENTIRE NEW CONSTITUTION.
WE HAVE NO INDICATION OF FIANNA FAIL PREFERENCE YET,
BUT OPPOSITION PARTY COULD PREFER MINOR MODIFCATIONS
TO EAMON DE VALERA 1937 CONSTITUTION. IN ANY CASE, IT
IS ENCOURAGING TO SEE CHANGE IN EMPHASIS IN COMMITTEE'S
MANDATE. SORENSON

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